

## Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 SCA-01 CPR-01 CIAE-00 FBIE-00

INSE-00 NSAE-00 L-03 /019 W

----- 106589

R 241225Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 359

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR CVIS EG

SUBJECT: LIBERALIZATION OF VISA VALIDITY: RECIPROCITY

REF: (A) 75 CAIRO 10085 (B) 75 STATE 245553

1. ON FEBRUARY 23 POLCOUNS LOWRIE AND CONSUL MILLER CALLED ON COUNSELOR EL GAMAL AT MFA TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT FOR LIBERALIZATION OF VALIDITY OF VISAS. EMBOFFS PROPOSED MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS AND TWELVE MONTH VALIDITY PERIOD FOR MAJORITY OF NON-IMMIGRANT VISAS PER REFTEL (B). LIST OF SPECIFIC TYPES FOR WHICH SUCH CHANGES SUGGESTED WAS GIVEN COUNSELOR EL GAMAL, SHOWING PRESENT AND PROPOSED SCHEDULE. EL GAMAL SAID MATTER WOULD BE TAKEN UP WITH OTHER CONCERNED GOE AUTHORITIES AND HE WOULD INFORM EMBASSY OF GOE REACTION.

2. EL GAMAL WAS AFFABLE AND WELL ACQUAINTED WITH U.S. VISA LIMITATIONS. HOWEVER, IT APPEARS FROM HIS REACTION THAT, AT LEAST IN NEAR FUTURE, ANY CHANGE WOULD BE UNLIKELY. FOR EXAMPLE, EL GAMAL POINTED OUT THAT AN EGYPTIAN VISA WAS TANTAMOUNT TO ADMISSION TO EGYPT UNLIKE US CHECK SYSTEM WHERE INS COULD DENY ENTRY EVEN THOUGH VALID VISA PRESENTED. (FYI: HIS VIEW OF EGYPTIAN PROCEDURE MAY BE CORRECT IN THEORY, BUT NOT IN PRACTICE, SINCE SECURITY AUTHORITIES ARE IMPOWERED TO EXCLUDE UNDESIRABLE ENTRANTS. END FYI.)

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3. QUESTION OF FEES WAS ALSO BROUGHT UP WITH REFERENCE TO NOTE RECENTLY SENT BY EMBASSY INQUIRING ABOUT FEES CHARGED BY EGYPTIAN EMBASSY AT RABAT FOR TOURIST VISAS. EL GAMAL SAID MFA HAD SENT COMMUNICATION TO EMBASSY IN RABAT, BUT IT WAS HIS BELIEF THE FEES MIGHT HAVE BEEN FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ABU SIMBEL FUND. WHEN ASKED IF SUCH COLLECTIONS WERE STILL BEING MADE, HE SAID HE WOULD ALSO CHECK THIS MATTER FURTHER AND INFORM US.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH EL GAMAL DID NOT SAY SO, WE BELIEVE ADDITIONAL REASON FOR GOE RELUCTANCE TO LIBERALIZE VISA POLICY FOR US CITIZENS (AS WELL AS OTHER NATIONALITIES) IS LIKELY TO BE CONCERN OF SECURITY AUTHORITIES. WE DO NOT PLAN TO PRESS GOE ON THIS MATTER, BUT WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK OTHER WAYS TO REDUCE INCREASING WORKLOAD ON OUR HARD PRESSED CONSULAR SECTION.  
EILTS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** VISA REGULATIONS  
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**Draft Date:** 24 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, CVIS, EG  
**To:** STATE  
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